Samajam, they would do the needful at the proper time. It would at least be sufficient if the Taluk Samajam was consulted as to the time when the bunds should be put up.

(6) The ryots should be permitted to remove shrubs and bushes from the Vedagiri Reserve for *punja* cultivation.

(7) A canal should be cut from Vempallithodu to the paddy fields west of Kanakkari. A portion of the cost and interest on the capital outlay could be realised from the ryots along with the land tax.

(8) The H. G. E. school for boys at Kaduthuruthi was held in a temporary shed which was not strong enough. A building should be constructed for locating the school at an early date.

(9) The L. G. E. school for girls at Kaduthuruthi should be raised to an H. G. E. school.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

151. Desirability of partitioning the Chengannur taluk into two taluks with Pathanamthitta as the head-quarters of one of them.

Mr. Varghese Kathanar (Member, Chengannur taluk) said that the subject of partitioning the Chengannur taluk into two taluks had been brought up at more than one session of the Assembly. At one time the eastern portion of the taluk was unexplored and uninhabited and so the head-quarters was fixed at Chengannur which was on the western end of the taluk. Since then the eastern portion had grown in importance. The enterprising European planters had opened many valuable estates in the Eastern *pakuthis*. Following them, many natives of the taluk also cultivated the lands registered in their names as *pudural* and lived in the eastern parts. They had to travel a distance of 25 to 35 miles to reach head-quarters to transact their business. There were extensive areas of *puduval* lands still available for registry in the eastern parts. The Tahsildar was not able to supervise the *puduval* registries effectively. The population was also increasing. The money transactions from the Government offices at Pathanamthitta were conducted in the Kunnathur treasury, on account of the difficulty of carrying treasure to the Chengannur treasury. The revenue of the taluk had also largely developed in recent years. There was a Magistrate's Court at Pathanamthitta. The additional expenditure in forming another taluk with Pathanamthitta as the head-quarters would not be much. With the formation of the proposed new taluk, there would be a substantial increase in *puduval* registry. That was sure to bring an appreciable revenue to the Government. The people were even prepared to incur the burden of an extra tax, if the above boon were granted. The difficulties to which the people were put had been realised by responsible officers of the State, including the Dewan. The Member prayed, therefore, that the Chengannur taluk be divided into two taluks and that the head-quarters of the new taluk be fixed at Pathanamthitta. He also suggested that the territorial jurisdiction of the new taluk might comprise the *pakuthis* of Pathanamthitta, Ranni, Kumpazha, Elanthoor and Omallur of the present Chengannur taluk, Vallikode pakuthi of the Kunnathur taluk, and Mallappuzhacheri and Cherukol *pakuthis* of the Tiruvalla taluk.

Dewan's reply.—As stated by me in reply to the representation at the last session of the Assembly, the Government feel that the partition of the Chengannur taluk into two is necessary. But, owing to financial considerations, it has not been possible to carry out the proposal. The question will receive consideration in due time.

152. Desirability of partitioning the Peermade taluk into two taluks, with Kanjirapalli as the head-quarters of one of them.

Mr. Mathai Thoma (Member, Peermade taluk) said that it was desirable to split the present Peermade taluk into two taluks with Kanjirappalli as the head-quarters of one of them. He proposed that the jurisdiction of the new taluk might comprise the *pakuthis* of Kanjirappalli, Chirakkadavu, Cheruvalli, Manimala and Poonjar. Those five *pakuthis*, though at present included in the Peermade taluk, resembled Central Travancore more or less in respect of climatic conditions and were

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not, therefore, unhealthy. To the public servants attached to the several Government institutions at Kanjirappalli, a substantial sum of not less than Rs. 25,000 per year was being paid in the shape of hill allowance. Such allowances need not be paid, if the five *pakuthis* aforesaid were separated from the Peermade taluk and constituted into a new taluk. The Government could effect a saving of Rs. 25,000 per year under that head.

Regarding the area of the proposed taluk, the Member said that the total area of the Peermade taluk was only 626 sq. miles. The area of the Kanjirappalli *pakuthi* alone was 101 sq. miles. The area of the five *pakuthis* together was 245 sq. miles. The total area of the five *pakuthis* was sufficient in the Member's opinion to be constituted into a taluk.

A special Deputy Tahsildar was sanctioned for registering the Paschima Devaswom lands in the Kanjirappalli *pakuthi*. In the Kanjirappalli *pakuthi* and in the eastern *pakuthis* of the Peermade taluk, there were extensive areas available for *puduval* registry. The Magisterial jurisdiction of the proposed taluk might, with advantage, be vested in the Tahsildar-Magistrate to be appointed for the proposed taluk. The necessity for a Second Class Magistrate at Mundakayam and for investing the Munsiff at Kanjirappalli with Magisterial powers would also vanish. The clerks, copyists and peons now working in the above Magistrates' Courts could be transferred to the new taluk office. The special Deputy Tahsildar appointed for registering the Paschima Devaswom lands and the staff under him might also be placed under the Tahsildar to be appointed. By making such arrangements, the necessity for finding additional funds in connection with the formation of the proposed taluk could be obviated. If the Tahsildar-Magistrate to be appointed for the taluk was invested with first class powers, the people would experience no difficulty in placing the new taluk under the Devicolam Division.

The Member understood that the Commissioner, Devicolam, was for re-constituting the two taluks in the Division into three taluks. If such be the case, the best way to effect it was to adopt the Member's suggestion. The five *pakuthis* mentioned above would form a new taluk. A few *pakuthis* of the Devicolam taluk which were near the Peermade taluk might be added on to the latter taluk, besides Sabarimala and other places near the Peermade taluk which were at present included in the Chengannur taluk.

Great difficulty was experienced by the people of Kanjirappalli on account of the fact that the head-quarters of the taluk was at Peermade. For example, the majority of the voters for electing Members to the Assembly were at Kanjirappalli. The election was held in the Peermade Taluk Cutcherry. To go to Peermade from Kanjirappalli one had to spend at least Rs. 10. Consequently, many of the voters did not attend the meeting for electing members.

In view of the several points urged above, the Member prayed that the Peermade taluk be divided into two with Kanjirappalli as the head-quarters of the new taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

153. Disabilities of the Christians in connection with the Public Service in the State and their inadequate representation in the lower ranks of the Service.

Mr. C. P. Thomas, B. A., L. T. (Member, Nominated) said that, though the subject had been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government at several sessions of the Assembly, it was regrettable that no attempts had been hitherto made to face the question and solve it satisfactorily. No one could deny the justice of the plea and yet nothing had been done to satisfy the community, though the question was argued time and again by them for the past two decades.

It was only at the fourth session of the Assembly that the representation on the subject elicited anything like a definite reply from the Dewan. It was to the effect that, so long as the Revenue and Devaswom departments were not separated, the

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